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Via Email

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Jackie Lacey, District Attorney  
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**Re: Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Motion for Comprehensive  
Diversion Plan for Los Angeles County**

Dear Supervisors Yaroslavsky, Knabe, Antonovich, Ridley-Thomas, Molina and Ms. Lacey,

On behalf of Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC), I write in support of the upcoming motion for a comprehensive diversion plan for Los Angeles County.

DRLC is a national non-profit organization that advances the rights of people with disabilities through education, advocacy, and litigation. It is the oldest cross-disability legal program in the nation. The offices of the DRLC are located at the Loyola Law School Public Interest Law Center, as well on the campus of the University of La Verne, College of Law in the Inland Empire region of Southern California, providing a legal clinical program to law students and others. The DRLC represents people with disabilities through individual and impact litigation.

On May 6, 2014, the Board of Supervisors (the Board) adopted a motion that recognized diversion was a missing component of the adopted nearly \$2 billion dollar jail master plan to demolish Men's Central Jail, modernize Mira Loma Detention Center for women and construct a new two-tower Consolidated Correctional Treatment Facility. DRLC agrees that

Disability Rights Legal Center

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*Founded in Memory of A. Milton Miller*

DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL CENTER

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diversion efforts are more effective than jails at treating mental illness, enhancing public safety, reducing repeat offenses and producing better outcomes. DRLC strongly supports the Board's financial commitment to diversion, as diversion costs dramatically less incarceration. DRLC also supports a robust diversion program and would provide adequate health and social services at all stages of the criminal justice continuum. I ask that the Board of Supervisors vote in favor of the motion to establish a comprehensive diversion plan for Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,



Paula Pearlman

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